

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00

CPR-01 OES-07 EUR-12 DHA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 SSC-01

IO-13 /099 W

-----011229 081125Z /17

O R 081040Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6211

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 6235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EMIN, ETRD, GV, LI

SUBJECT: VISIT TO GUINEA OF LIBERIAN PRESIDENT W.R. TOLBERT

REF: MONROVIA 9062 (1976)

1. THE DEPARTURE SEPTEMBER 8 OF PRESIDENT W.R. TOLBERT ON A "BRIEF VISIT" TO GUINEA TO HOLD TALKS WITH HIS FRIEND AND BROTHER PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE" WAS ANNOUNCED THE SAME DAY BY GOL RADIO. THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE FRANK TOLBERT, IN A MEETING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 7, DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS DESIGNED "TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN AFRICAN SOLIDARITY." PRESIDENT TOLBERT WILL FLY TO CONAKRY ABOARD A SPECIAL GUINEAN AIRCRAFT.

2. THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY INCLUDES COMMERCE MINISTER WILLIAM DENNIS, INFORMATION MINISTER EDWARD KESSELY, CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTER OF STATE WITHOUT PORTFOLIO CHARLES CLARKE, SENATOR JACKSON DOE OF NIMBA COUNTY (ALSO SECOND NATIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRUE WHIG PARTY), REPRESENTATIVE IJOMA FLEMISTER (FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARTY), DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SYLVESTER JARRETT, DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF, DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS J.W. MCCLAIN

AND AMBASSADOR CHARLES HANSFORD, PROTOCOL OFFICER AT THE EXECUTIVE MANSION.

3. COMMENT: IN DECEMBER 1976 VISITING GUINEAN MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE ISMAEL TOURE AND LIBERIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE JAMES T. PHILLIPS SIGNED SIX AGREEMENTS COVERING TRADE AND COMMERCE, FISHERIES, COMMUNICATIONS, JUSTICE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (REFTEL). THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ITEM IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN GUINEA AND LIBERIA IS THE MIFERGUI-NIMBA JOINT VENTURE FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF IRON ORE DEPOSITS IN GUINEA JUST ACROSS THE BORDER FROM THE LAMCO IRON ORE OPERATIONS IN NUMBA COUNTY, LIBERIA. UNDER THIS JOINT VENTURE THE GOL WILL PERMIT TRANSIT OF GUINEAN IRON ORE THROUGH LIBERIA TO THE PORT OF BUCHANAN, UTILIZING LAMCO RAIL TRANSPORT AND PORT LOADING FACILITIES. INCLUSION OF RANKING COMMERCE AND FINANCE OFFICIALS IN THE GOL DELEGATION WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT SOME FORMALIZATION OF THE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOG AND THE GOL WITH REGARD TO MIFERGUI WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE TOLBERT VISIT. IT IS LIKELY ALSO THAT TOLBERT WILL DISCUSS WITH SEKOU TOURE HIS CONCERNS OVER CURRENT AFRICAN PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THE DETERIORATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, PRESSURE FROM THE NORTH ON CHAD, AND THE CRITICAL STAGE REACHED IN THE UK/US ATTEMPTS TO REACH A SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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REGARD TO THE HORN, TOLBERT IS CLEARLY NOT IN SYMPATHY WITH SOMALI INTRUSIONS INTO ETHIOPIA. AN EDITORIAL IN THE PARTY-OWNED "LIBERIAN AGE" SEPTEMBER 6 STATED THAT "NO COUNTRY SHOULD GIVE SUPPORT TO SO-CALLED LIBERATION FRONTS WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO DISMEMBER OTHER COUNTRIES." AN EDITORIAL SEPTEMBER 2 IN THE "AGE" ENDORSED THE UK/US PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE RHODESIAN QUESTION.
HORAN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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